

Docket 60044
Serial No. 10/811,267

PATENT APPLICATION

REMARKS

This is in full and timely response to the initial Office Action on the merits dated February 18, 2005. Reconsideration and reexamination are respectfully requested in view of the 5 foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claims 10-20 stand allowed already. By the foregoing amendment, claims 2 and 4 have been canceled, and claims 1 and 5 have been amended. Therefore, claims 1, 3, and 5-20 remain in this application with claims 1, 10, and 20 being independent.

10 IN THE DRAWINGS:

The drawings were objected to in that the reference numeral 36 was not shown therein. Omission of this reference numeral was merely an inadvertent oversight and has now been shown in the replacement sheet showing Fig. 5.

15 IN THE CLAIMS:

35 U.S.C. § 102 and 103 Rejections:

Claims 1, 3, 7 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,083,121 to Hovey. Further, claims 1-3 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 20 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 4,660,837 to Bressie. The examiner, however, indicated that claims 10-20 are allowable and claims 4-5 read over the prior art. The applicant assumes, therefore, that claims 4 and 5 are merely objected to as depending from rejected base

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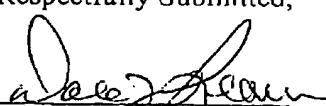
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claims but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, without admitting the propriety of these rejections, claim 1 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 4 along with the limitations of claim 2 which is an intervening claim. Claims 2 and 4 have been canceled and 5 claim 5 has been amended to properly depend from claim 1. Accordingly, claim 1 should now be in condition for allowance along with claims 3, and 5-9 which depend therefrom and such is respectfully requested.

Conclusion:

10 This application should now be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested. If the examiner has any suggestions that would place this application in even better condition for allowance, he is invited to contact the applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully Submitted,


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